

**LEISURE TIME OF WOMAN ACTIVITIES IN A HAREM LIFE
REFLECTED AT FATIMA MERNISSI'S MEMOIR *DREAM OF
TRESPASS: TALES OF A HAREM GIRLHOOD* (1994): A SOCIOLOGICAL
APPROACH**



PUBLICATION ARTICLE

Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the requirements
for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education
in English Department

by:

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MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA
2014**



UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH SURAKARTA
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Surakarta, 10 Juli 2014

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ABSTRACT

This study is about leisure time of woman activities in a harem life reflected in Fatima Mernissi's Dream of Trespass memoir. The objective of this study to analyze the memoir based on the sociological perspective. This research paper belongs to qualitative research. Data of the research are divided into two, primary and secondary data. The primary data of the research is the Dream of Trespass memoir itself and the secondary data sources are books, internet, and articles or any information related with the sociological approach. The method to analyze of this data is descriptive analysis. The researcher comes to the conclusion as follows that there is a close relationship between the memoirs and the social reality of Moroccans society at the first half of the twentieth century.

Keywords: Leisure time, woman activities, in harem life, Dream of Trespass, Sociological analysis

A. Introduction

Dream of Trespass is one of the international best seller memoirs that written by Fatima Mernissi. The popularity of this novel can be proved by many researchers about this novel. The researcher has found nine research papers about this novel. The research paper which writer has found such as, research paper is using psychoanalytic perspective theory, discourse analysis theory, and feminist theory. Other reason "*Dream of Trespass*" becomes best seller, because the memoir tells us about the activities of women who are live in harem. They do not have varieties activities to spend their leisure time, their leisure time are boring. Leisure time of woman activities in a harem life is interesting issues. There are two reasons, why the writer is interested in studying this memoir. First, because it is a real experience of Fatima life in harem and the way of spend the leisure time in harem. Second, this memoir tells about the woman's activities in harem area. Their activities make some pattern in their society. Based on the story of the memoir, the writer uses the sociological theory as an approach to analyze this memoir. By so doing, the writer gives the title: Leisure Time of Woman activities in Harem Life Reflected at Fatima Mernissi's *Dream of Trespass: Tales of a Harem Girlhood* (1994) Memoir: A Sociological Approach. Based on the background of study, the writer proposed the problem "How are the woman fill their leisure time in Harem area and how do they solve their problem in Harem area reflected at Fatima Menerssi's *Dream of Trespass: Tales of Harem Girlhood* (1994) Memoir using sociological approach? In addition, there are two objectives of the study in this research; firstly, to describe *Dream of Trespass* memoir based on the structural elements of memoir. Secondly to analyze Leisure Time of Woman's activities in Harem Life Reflected at Fatima Mernissi's *Dream of Trespass: Tales of a Harem Girlhood* based on a Sociological approach.

After the researcher knows about some previous study above, she wants to explain more about the other researcher who analyzes memoir "*Dream of Trespass*" such as, psychoanalytic approach, the previous study by (1) Anisahri, he analyses about woman's experience and (2) Nandini Dhar from University of Texas in 2006, she analyses about Narratives of Everyday Resistance and Politis of feminism Self Representation. Then, there is analyst uses discourse analytic, written by (1) Restiwi, Siti (2007) she analyses about between the traditional and the modern. Besides psychoanalytic and discourse analytic, this novel also analyses use feminist, (1) Wahyu, Utomo from UMS, he analyses about gender Inequality, (2) Indriani, Mivta (2001), she analyses about price of freedom, (3) Laili, Najikhatul (2011) , she analyses about

women struggle to cope with the misery of living in harem, (4) Khasanah, Hikmahtun (2011), she analyses about discrimination against women. And there are two analysts who analyses this book that are: (1) MaileTou analyze this novel with title “Defining The Frountier” and (2) Karen Henry, in her review she glimpses a world of Arab women’s struggling to maintain some aspects of tradition while emerging into a modern and free world.

By finding some literature review above, the writer is interested to analyze this book by using the other perspective, that is, sociological approach. Sociology form by two words, “socius” or “society” means society, and “logos” means science. The word Sociology comes from the Greek. It can conclude that sociology means “science or study about society” (Saraswati, 2003 : 2). Other statement about sociology, “sociology is essentially the scientific, objective study of man in society, the study of social institutions and of social process; it seeks to answer the question of how society is possible, how it work, why it persists” (Swingewood and Laurenson, 1972 : 11). According to Swingewood (in Faruk, 1994: 1) states that “sociology is a study on people in society and on the social process and the institution embedded on it.” Elizabeth and Tom Burns add that the purpose of sociology is to understanding about the social behavior and the social institution, they states that “The purpose of sociology is to achieve an understanding of social behavior and social institution which is different from that current among the people through whose conduct the institutions exist: an understanding which is not merely different but new and better” (Burns and Burns, (eds), 1973:10). Talk about leisure time, it cannot be separated from sociology. Leisure time is free time or when you are free and not in a hurry (Oxford Dictionary, 2008:25). Leisure time is a social phenomenon. According to Soekanto (2013), sociology is a science studying the society entirely and the connection among the people in that society. As a study of society, sociology tries to reveals how people make sense of the ways in which they live their lives (Burns and Burns, 1973: 9). This is not a simple work for sociologist and authors to relate their study of society because they need to understand about the social behavior and the social institutions of society in which they always vary from one society to another, and this understanding should be new and better because this is the purpose of why sociology is exist (Burns and Burns, 1973). The theory above is strengthened by Swingewood and Laureson (1972) which stated that “the basic purpose of sociology is to understand the nature and the working of all societies and men’s position within them” which means that to study about society, they need to have good understanding about the society they studied.

B. Research Method

In analyzing this memoir, *Dream of Trespass* memoir by Fatima Mernissi (1994), the researcher uses qualitative research for her research on *Dream of Trespass* memoir by Fatima Mernissi (1994) to analyze data. The types of data of this study are the text in *Dream of Trespass* (1994) memoir by Fatima Mernissi. The data sources are library and literary data. Type of the data is textual data and the data sources of the research are: The primary data sources are taken from Fatima Mernissi's *Dream of Trespass* written by Fatima Mernissi. The secondary data sources are taken from books or any information related with leisure time of woman activities that supports the sociological approach. Technique of the data collection, the researcher uses note taking as the method of collecting data in this research. The steps are follows: Read the memoir repeatedly, identifying the problem and find the data, collecting some supporting data from other references related to the topic, selecting particular parts considered important and relevant for analysis, drawing conclusion and formulate its pedagogical suggestion. The steps are taken by the researcher in analyzing the data are follows: the first is analyzing the data based on its structural elements. The second step is analyzing the data based on sociological approach.

C. Finding and Discussion

1. Findings

This memoir is analyses by using sociological analysis and this is the results of analyses by using sociological approach, as follows:

a. Social Aspect

Social aspect is showed in Fatima Mernissi's memoir *Dream of Trespass*. It can be seen from the social structure of society in this memoir. At that time, Morocco was colonized by aliened country. This condition is one of a reason the social development in Morocco. It can be seen from the different rule between man and woman. The difference life style between man and woman, when fill their leisure time. In Morocco, men get a lot of rights of their requirement likes education, employment, possessed of thing, etc. Opposite of this condition, the women do not get their rights. The other reason is there are many class social, such as upper class, middle class, and lower class. So, this memoir showed many characters by the gender and from upper class, middle class, and lower class.

Fatima depicts that difference gender between man and woman and society class in Morocco happened in Fatima's memoir. It can be seen by the major character and minor character in Fatima's memoir such as Fatima as a woman and Samir as a man, she cannot accompany her father and uncle on their trip like Samir. Chama and Zin, Chama cannot go outside like Zin.

The society class can be seen by Lalla Thor and Lalla Yasmina, they are wives of Grandfather Tazi, but they came from different society class. Lalla Thor has special position do not like Yasmina.

The difference rule between man and woman was finished when Morocco gets the independence in 1956. The women can express their happiness without hidden from men. Although, there is a traditional rules which have to obey by the women, but they can go outside like men. The girls can school in normal school outside the harem. They can go to movie, see the parade independence, and wear clothes as like as they wear.

In 1956 Morocco had gotten independence and French armies were leaving, there are many women to celebrate this moment with parade on Long Street and sing till middle night.

After the independence piecemeal, the rule for women is despaired, like wearing clothes as they wear.

The other impact of Morocco's independence is, the women can join the men go to the movie.

The alteration condition of Morocco has impact for the children, they can school in normal school outside the harem. Fatima and their sister can school in the normal school like their cousin.

Fatima in *Dream of Trespass* through the character in her memoir, major and minor character shows that there is differences between men and women rules and class society give attention to the other.

b. Economic Aspect

Economic aspect is showed in Fatima's memoir *Dream of Trespass*. Morocco in 1940s until 1956 was colonized by Spain and French, it impacts to the economy in this country. In that time, the money supply was very limited. Both woman and man have a little money, so the expenditure and income regulated by the man. The daily needed of woman and children will be fulfilled by man.

In Fatima's memoir *Dream of Trespass* economic aspect did not much explained, but she tells that the situation in Morocco at that time gives impact for the economic aspect in harem area itself.

c. Political Aspect

In Fatima's memoir *Dream of Trespass* political aspect was showed by the situation at that time and the character in her memoir. The situation Morocco at the time was in colonized, but the people in Morocco especially in harem stay abreast of developments politics outside the Morocco. Morocco's problems did not only with the invaders, Franc and Spain but also with the Christian. The men worry, they will bomb other country.

French form some city council in Morocco, there are the *ulema*, *sharifs*, *tujar*, *fellah*, and, the craftsmen. They met and discussion in Friday noon, although this city council was formed by Franc, they always discuss about broke the Franc. They use the opportunity of gathered to keep the constituency. The result of their discussion gave to the society, it is one of their way to communicate with them.

Fatima through her memoir explains that the situation and some characters in the memoir influence to the political aspect in harem and harem's surrounding

d. Religious Aspect

Fatima showed religious aspect in her memoir *Dream of Trespass*. Morocco is one of the Islamic countries in Africa. Moroccan believes of their Prophet, and they are the generation of him.

Fatima tells in her memoir about religious. In harem, she gets knowledge about Islam from her teacher and her father. As Muslim in general, the men in harem should do their obligation like prayer in Friday noon.

The other religion in Morocco is Jew, they have their own area. As the Muslim in Fez, Jews also worship to their God. They love their God and teach His book to their children in their own way. Since ancient times, Muslims and Jewish live together, but then the Jewish did awful thing and the Prophet Muhammad makes a decision to dissociate between Muslims and Jewish in two area.

Islam is very familiar in Fatima's life. When she was child, she got Islam learning from her family and her teacher. Al-Qur'an and all about Islam are part of people in harem.

Through her memoir, Fatima wants to explain that religious is part of people in Morocco, they can appreciate to other people who are embraced other religion by the situation of her country at that time and the character in her memoir.

e. Cultural Aspect

Fatima Mernissi describes the culture aspect in Morocco in her memoir. There are many cultures in Fatima's memoir *Dream of Treapass*, especially traditional culture and tradition is fulfilled in her memoir. The lifestyle in Morocco, especially in Fez, there is difference lifestyle between man and woman. The man is more freedom than woman. They can do anything what they want, like read a newspaper, go outside, listen to the radio, wears a clothes as like as they wear. But woman, they have to still obey the tradition. One of tradition that Fatima's father keeps is he never leaves from harem.

Most of the rural people of Morocco dance in the religious celebration, they usually called *hadra* or ritual dance. The ritual dance or *hadad* held once a year and combined with religious choir men.

Fatima Mernissi shows that the situation and condition of culture in Morocco at that time was influence of the tradition which is mingled with the culture of other country, near Morocco.

f. Science and Technology

Fatima Mernissi's memoir *Dream of Trespass* does not show the development of the science and technology. In 1940s, the popular technology in Morocco is radio. They listen to the radio to know the development of the world through radio. In harem, there is a radio in men's room. The women in harem may not to listen to the radio. They can listen to the radio when the men go outside and the listen by stealth.

The Moroccans still keep their tradition, the development of science in Morocco, especially in harem happened by intuitively. They use the old way to make a science. They use the nature ingredients to make it.

Fatima gets the nature of science about solar system by Al-Mas'udi's book. She believes that the science was made did not by the magic, like her sister said. She believes that there is a science about the relationship about moon and nature. The several young women believe about the power of magic.

Fatima Mernissi's showed that the development of science and technology in 1940s was low. The Moroccans use the radio and sometimes read the newspaper to know the development in the world. Several women can create the science by their knowledge from the ancient, and there are women still believes about the magic.

2. Discussion

Based on the sociological analysis above, the researcher stated that the structural elements of this novel are appropriate with the core of the study using sociological approach.

Fatima Mernissi's memoir *Dream of Trespass* discusses about the society of Morocco in the middle of nineteenth century. Fatima sees that the difference gender between women and men are influence to get the right of social life. The old rules tradition is one reason of the border between men and women.

The social condition of Morocco in the middle if nineteenth century was one of influential factor to Fatima makes literary work. In her memoir, she describes the major character, Fatima, is the middle class of society. Fatima's family is included to the middle of class of society because her father and her uncle have special position in society. The other can be seen in minor character such as Aunt Habibba as a widow and her grandmother from her mother side Yasmina is comes from lower class and also the several slaves who live together in her grandfather Tazi's house. The social relation between men and women and also society class is reflected well in the *Dream of Trespass*.

In this memoir, Fatima also wants to describe about the condition of the Morocco's economy is development at that time. After get the independence, Morocco can process their economy's aspect.

In her literary work, Fatima shows that the minor characters, her father and the men in harem, have the authority to manage the income and outcome of their family. They were very thrifty of the outcome of the goods. They also full filled the daily needs.

Fatima in her memoir was also describing about the development of the politic aspect. The situation in the country at that time was very influential about the politic in her country. Her country was colonized by the Spain and German. But, after the King Mohammed V stated about the independence, they still use the Islam politic and the women get a few of their right.

The religious aspect was described in Fatima's literary work. They believe that they are the generation of their Prophet, Muhammad. Fatima shows by the major and minor character to explain the religious aspect in her literary work. She explains that her cousin Zin as a young man in harem always lead the prayer in Friday noon. She also explains that the Muslim and Jewish are live together till the situation changed. Jewish make their area for their community.

In her literary work, Fatima also shows the culture aspect based on the main major and the minor major. The culture in Morocco is influential

from the near country. They have several rituals to celebration the born of Prophet. The culture is influence by the tradition which has growth in harem. Her father stays live with her mother and other relative family in one house, they usually called the communal life. Her father still believes that with live together with other relative family can keep the tradition and the culture.

The last discussion in the Fatima's literary work is about science and technology. Fatima shows based on the minor character in their memoir. in harem, there is a radio and it is one of the high technology at time to know the development of the world. The minor character like her father, her uncle and al the cousin can listen to the radio, but the woman can use it when the men were out. The women in harem cannot get knowledge about science. They create their science by themselves. They create the perfume and some ingredients for her body. The several women also still believe in magic. The development of science and technology in Morocco was changed after the independence.

Having analyzed Fatima Mernissi's memoir *Dream of trespass* based on the sociological approach, the writer conclude that there is a relationship between the memoir of *Dream of Trespass* with the social background of Morocco in the middle of nineteenth century. The writer can find the answer of the problem of the research is how are the woman in harem fill their leisure time reflected the Fatima Mernissi's memoir *Dream of Trespass*. The portrait of the leisure time of woman activities in harem can be traced from the character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, and style by Fatima Mernissi. In addition, it can be seen from the several aspects such as social, economy, politic, religious, culture and science and technology aspect. This memoir explains about the leisure time of woman activities in harem. The writer concludes that the social condition in harem is influential of the leisure time and habitual activities of woman. By the leisure time the woman in harem can make some dreams and try to make their dream come true.

Swingewood and Laurenson (1972: 11) state that "sociology is essentially the scientific, objective study of man in society, the study of social institutions and of social process; it seeks to answer the question of how society is possible, how it work, why it persists". There is relationship between literature and sociology. Wellek and Warren (1989: 109) state that literature is "social institution, which is using the language as it medium." After the writer analyzed Fatima Mernissi's memoir *Dream of Trespass* and the sociological approach have closed relationship with the condition of the society and both of them cannot be separated from each

other. In addition, the literary work also serves as the mirror of the social condition and social reality.

Fatima Mernissi's through her memoir gives some critic about the Moroccans at the time. She explains that there are not variety activity for women to spend their leisure time, because there are many borders between men and women. Fatima thinks that there is not fair for women in harem. The social aspect is dominant from other aspect based on Fatima's memoir, because there are many problems especially for women who are live in harem.

D. Conclusion

The study comes to the following conclusion, first based on the structure analysis it can be concluded that in this memoir Fatima Mernissi conveys the message that live in harem is monotonous and boring. In order to deliver the message she writes her own experience on living in harem during her childhood sixteenth. In writing her experience she highlights some issues related to the right of women in using the leisure time.

Second, based on the sociological analysis, it can be concluded that there is a close relationship between the memoirs and the social reality of Moroccans society at the first half of the twentieth century. In the memoir, she reflects some aspect of Moroccan society from social, economic, political, religious, cultural, to the development of science and technology. The dominant aspect, she addresses in the social aspect particularly how women in harem using their leisure time. The analysis of Fatima Mernissi criticizes the Moroccans society for giving very little freedom to women to use their leisure time.

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